(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge difference between the tariff rates of courier services of the private sector and public sector;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether Government have formulated any plan to bring down this difference to a competitive level; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Since private couriers in India are working in an unregulated environment, the full details of their tariff, rates etc. are not available with the Department of Posts.

(c) and (d) Since the private couriers are functioning in an unregulated environment, there is no legislative basis for intervention by Government in this regard.

Gap between demand and supply of coal

*610. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coal in different parts of the country by all coal companies as on date;

(b) the present demand of coal in the country, State-wise, particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to fill up the gap between the demand and supply of coal products in the country particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The total production of coal in different parts/states of the country by all coal companies during the year 2006-07 (provisional) is given below:

(In Million Tonnes)

SI. No.	State	2006-07
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37.71
2.	Assam	1.05
3.	Chhattisgarh	83.18
4.	J&K	0.01
5.	Jharkhand	88.78
6.	Madhya Pradesh	59.73
7.	Maharashtra	36.22
8.	Meghalaya	5.57
9.	Orissa	81.16
10.	Uttar Pradesh	12.23
11.	West Bengal	24.94
	All. India	430.58

(b) The demand of coal is assessed by the Planning Commission for the country as a whole based on the requirement of the consumers of different sectors and not State-wise.

The assessed all India coal demand for Annual Plan 2007-08 is 494.50 MT. This comprises of a demand of 45.58 MT on the part of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) operating in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The production target of SCCL during 2007-08 is 38.04 MT.

(c) The estimated raw coal demand of 494.50 MT in 2007-08 is planned to be met from domestic supply of 461.89 MT, which includes domestic production of 460.50 MT and a stock draw down of 1.39 MT from CIL sources. This leaves a gap of 30.61 MT which will be entirely met by proposed import of 20 MT of coking coal for steel sector and 10.61 MTof non-coking coal for power, cement and other sectors.

The steps taken by Govt, to increase production to reduce the gap between demand and supply are as under:—

1. 130 coal blocks have been allotted to different private/public sector companies for captive and uses/commercial mining.

2. CIL has identified to take up 119 coal projects during the Xlth Plan for an ultimate capacity of 256 MT with a contribution of 111.08 MT in 2011-12, the terminal year of the Plan.

3. SCCL has identified to take up 25 projects for an ultimate capacity of 43.35 MT with a contribution of 5.75 MT in the terminal year 2011-12 of XI Plan.

4. CIL under "Emergency Coal Production Plan" has identified 16 opencast projects/mines where production from the existing mines/ projects will be enhanced to a higher level yielding additional 71.3 MT.

5. Improvement in equipment utilization. Mechanization/modernization of existing mines.

Backward Regions Grant Fund

*611. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the districts so far that are declared for the benefits under "Backward Regions Grants Fund", State-wise;

(b) what is the criterion for such selection;

(c) whether he would agree that giving funds directly to State administration is not serving required purpose as envisaged by the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps proposed?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) 250 districts across 27 States have been identified as beneficiaries of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). A listing of these beneficiary districts, state-wise, is at Statement (See below). The